

(ii) *Re*: Power cut to M.S.K. Mills, Gulbarga

Sri MALLIKARJUNA KHARGE.—I call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Public Works and Electricity to the power cut to the M.S.K. Mills Company Limited, Gulbarga.

Sri H. M. CHANNABASAPPA (Minister for Public Works and Electricity).—Sir, I state as follows :

Due to successive failure of monsoons during 1971 and 1972 and the consequent low level of water in Linganamakki Reservoir, it became inevitable to enforce a cut of 25 per cent in the consumption of energy in the State from 1-10-1972 till the on-set of the next monsoons. This cut has been enforced on all consumers except certain utility services essential to the community. For purposes of enforcing this cut, the actual energy consumed by a consumer during the period February-July 1972 has been taken into account by the Mysore State Electricity Board. On this basis, the monthly energy entitlement of the M.S.K. Mills, Gulbarga was fixed at 5,32,576 units. The Mills however, consumed energy in excess of their entitlement during October 1972 and the Chairman of the Mills agreed to this excess as also the anticipated excess consumption if any in November 1972 being adjusted during the months of December 1972 and January 1973 as the mills proposed to set up diesel generating sets to supplement the energy required by them. The Board agreed on 18-11-1972 to the mills drawing power in excess of their entitlement subject to the condition that this excess will be made good during the subsequent months. The total quantum of energy drawn in excess by the mills during the period from November 1972 to February 1973 was of the order of 4,92,992 units. Since there was no reduction in the consumption of energy in subsequent months also, the Board had to disconnect the installation on 5th March 1973.

2. According to the norms prescribed by the Board, an installation has to be disconnected for excess consumption for a period of one week or for a period corresponding to the excess energy consumed, whichever is higher. In the case of this mills, the period of disconnection will be 27 days. As this would have resulted in closure of the mills and retrenchment of the workers, apart from affecting the production, the Board, as a special case, agreed to re-connect the installation subject to the payment of penal charges for the excess consumption and also for adjustment of excess energy of 4,92,992 units in three equal monthly instalments during the subsequent period ending June 1973. The installation was accordingly re-connected by the Board on 12-3-1973. Thus power supply had to be disconnected only for seven days as the mills could not reduce their consumption inspite of the concession given by the Board.

3. Representations were received by Government from the Member, the Mill Management also from the Mill Mazdur Sabha indicating that the enforcement of 25 per cent cut in the consumption of

energy by the mills and adjustment of excess energy drawn by them during November 1972 to February 1973 in the subsequent months, will put the mills into great hardships resulting in its closure and retrenchment of workers of the area which is hit by scarcity conditions. Government on considering the representations have instructed the State Electricity Board that the excess energy drawn by the mills during November 1972 to February 1973 should not be adjusted in the current and future months and that the monthly energy entitlement of the mills should be fixed on the basis of its actual consumption of energy during the period for which it worked to its full capacity, subject to a cut of 25 per cent, as has been done in the case of other two sick mills viz., Mysore and Minerva Mills taken over by the Textile Corporation. Complete exemption of the mills from power cut is not feasible nor desirable. However, with the concession now shown, it is hoped that the mills will be in a position to utilise the power allowed fully to their advantage without any interference in their working and without any hinderance to their production.

SRI MALLIKARJUNA KHARGE.—I want to know whether the Chairman of the Electricity Board had sent a letter to the M. S. K. Mills, Gulbarga stating that only 6,32,576 units should be consumed, so as to implement the 25 per cent power cut and thereby the labourers also would get full employment?

SRI H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—No, that is not correct. He will calculate the power that has been consumed by the Mill. I have made it very clear that the excess consumption they have made is exempted as special case. The 25 per cent cut will continue and the quantum of 75 per cent power will be calculated on the total consumption that they have made during the period when the Mill was working to its full capacity.

SRI MALLIKARJUNA KHARGE.—I want to know whether any such letter was sent?

SRI H. M. CHANNABASAPPA.—I can't tell you what correspondence took place between the Mills and the Electricity Board. The Government passed the orders in this way and it will stand.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—Next item, papers to laid.

Papers Laid on the Table

SRI N. HUTCHAMASTHY GOWDA (Minister for Revenue).—I beg to lay :

Order No. RD 52 EST 72 dated 21st March 1973. Remission of fifty per cent Stamp Duties chargeable in respect of all instruments, mortgage deeds, agreements, security bonds, affidavits etc., executed by the Co-operative Societies registered under Mysore Co-operative Societies Act 1960 and all